

PROOF OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

The Number of Policies in force is greater than that of any other Company in America and greater than that of all the Regular Life Insurance Companies put together (less one) and can only be appreciated by comparison.

This Company has more premium-paying business in force in the United States than any other Company, and for each of the last 10 years has had more New Insurances accepted and issued than any other Company in the World.

ASSETS - - \$105,656,311.60



Largest Office Building in the World—Madison Avenue, Fourth Avenue, 23rd Street and 24th Street, New York City.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

This Company's Policy-claims paid in 1903 averaged in number one for each minute and a third of each business day of 8 hours each, and, in amount, \$89.00 a minute the year through.

THE DAILY AVERAGE OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS DURING 1903 WAS:

- 359 per day in Number of Claims Paid.
6,297 per day in Number of Policies Issued.
\$1,303,559.06 per day in New Insurance Written.
\$98,582.76 per day in Payments to Policy-holders and addition to Reserve.
\$53,841.18 per day in Increase of Assets.

HOME OFFICE OF THE

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

(INCORPORATED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK)

The Company OF the People, BY the People, FOR the People

Table with 2 columns: ASSETS and LIABILITIES. Assets include United States, City and R. R. Bonds and Stocks, Bonds and Mortgages, Real Estate, Cash, Loans to Policyholders, etc. Liabilities include Reinsurance Fund and Special Reserves, All other Liabilities, Capital and Surplus.

Table with 2 columns: Paid to Policyholders since Organization, plus the Amount now Invested for their Security, and Number of Policies in Force. Values: \$238,295,968.84 and 7,523,915.

Amount of Outstanding Insurance \$1,342,381,457.00 Amount of Insurance Issued in 1903 \$398,889,074.00
In its Ordinary Department policies are issued for from \$1,000 to \$1,000,000 on individual lives, premiums payable annually, semi-annually and quarterly.

RECORD OF GROWTH IN TEN YEAR PERIODS. Table with 6 columns: INCOME, ASSETS, SURPLUS, POLICIES IN FORCE, OUTSTANDING INSURANCE. Rows for 1883, 1893, and 1903.

F. E. BARNETT, SUPERINTENDENT, 40-41 Columbian Building, West Sixth St., Topeka, Kan.
HARRIE S. ELDER, ASST. SUPT., 747 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, Kan.
EUGENE H. HELM, ASST. SUPT., Forde Building, 419 Commercial St., Emporia, Kan.
CHARLES A. WHEATON, ASST. SUPT., 5 Skinner Building, Second and Main Sts., Ottawa, Kan.

- OFFICERS: John R. Hegeman, President; George H. Gaston, Second Vice-Pres.; Frank O. Ayres, Fourth Vice-Pres.; James S. Roberts, Secretary; J. J. Thompson, Cashier and Asst. Sec.; Stewart L. Woodford, Counsel; Augustus S. Knight, M.D., Medical Director; E. M. Holden, M.D., Asst. Medical Director; I. J. Cahen, Manager Ordinary Department.
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AMONG THE BOOKS

Grace Greenwood Sues Harpers for \$50,000.

Paragraph in Julian Hawthorne's Book the Cause.

SAYS IT ISN'T TRUE.

Referred to Her Action at a Private Reading.

Items of Interest to Lovers of Books.

The following was contained in a special dispatch from New York: A law suit which will turn upon a private entry made in Nathaniel Hawthorne's notebook when the famous author was acting as the American consul in Liverpool nearly fifty years ago has been commenced. It involves members of the Hawthorne family now living in an action to recover \$50,000 damages brought by Mrs. Sarah J. Lippincott, who is known to the literary world as Grace Greenwood, against Harper & Bros. The case is based on certain statements made by Julian Hawthorne in his book, 'Hawthorne and His Circle,' published by the Harper firm.

'This won't do. Ma'am, you disturb the company. Ma'am, you expose yourself.' 'This last hit had the desired effect, for poor Grace probably thought her drapery had not adjusted itself as it ought, and that perhaps she really was exposing more of her charms than should be imparted in mixed company. So she came to herself in a hurry and after a few flutterings subsided into a devious listener.

BOOK NOTES.

Various Items About Books That Are Attracting Attention. Dodd, Mead & Co. are soon to publish 'The Adventures of Elizabeth in Russia' by James P. Baxter, A. M., president of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Maine Historical Society, and author of a number of historical works.

figure in my mind," she said, "and then build around it the chief dramatic incident of the story. Having conceived that, I work out the rest of the novel. It is like working down from the climax. In the case of 'The Deliverance' the first character that I had in mind was that of Christopher Blake, and the first incident that developed in the story was the one in which he gives himself up to the authorities as the supposed murderer of Fletcher. But when I sat down to write the first chapter I had the whole story planned, and had even the words of many chapters already in my mind.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. published the 'The Adventures of Elizabeth in Russia' by James P. Baxter, A. M., president of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Maine Historical Society, and author of a number of historical works.

No little curiosity has been expressed over the volume by the new mayor of New York. Some have taken the title, 'The Oligarchy of Venice,' to be a double entendre meant to conceal a treatment of an oligarchy much nearer home. It may be said, however, on the authority of the publishers, that Mr. McClellan's book is simply what it purports to be, a study of the great Venetian machine of government, and, it may be added, a study both careful and graceful.

Miss Rose E. Young, whose new story of Missouri life, entitled 'Henderson,' is just published, has been connected with some picturesque journalism in her time. One little sheet which she edited had a rural correspondent, who was a joy to her soul. Once he sent in a batch of news notes from what she called the following: 'Mr. Dave Ranson has just past down the road with a load of corn going to Napoleon. . . Mr. Ranson is on his way home. I seen him coming back.' It was a lively community of its class, and the dots between the items stood for no greater lapse of time than a few hours, so fast did events follow one upon another in Turkey Prairie.

Two books, not hitherto announced, on Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s Spring List are a new volume by Dr. Theodore T. Munser, entitled 'Essays for the Day,' and a bold dramatic poem by William Vaughn Moody, dealing with the story of Prometheus, and entitled 'The Fire-Bringer.' These publishers report the following new printings: The tenth impression of 'The Log of a Cowboy,' by Andy Adams whose new book 'A Texas Matchmaker' will appear next month; a second impression of 'Henderson,' by Rose E. Young, which was called for in advance of publication; a fourth impression of 'The Rights of

R. E. Young, Author of 'Sally in Missouri,' Who Will Soon Publish a New Book.



Man,' by Dr. Lyman Abbott, and second impressions of 'The Nature of Goodness,' by Prof. G. H. Palmer, and 'Henry Ward Beecher,' by Lyman Abbott. Prof. George C. Howland, of the University of Chicago, considers that 'the most important historical work of the past year is John W. Foster's 'American Diplomacy in the Orient.' Mr. Foster shows that American trade and American prestige are deeply concerned in the settlement of the far eastern question, and that this condition is the outgrowth of a hundred years of mainly not an accidental embarrassment consequent upon a recent war. Only in the light of this hundred years' history should the American consider his relation to China, Japan, Russia, and the Philippines. The volume for so-called 'detective' stories seems in no wise diminished; and Mr. M. L. Severy is to publish through Dodd, Mead & Co. early in the spring one of unusual complexity and interest, entitled 'That Darrow Enigma.' It is, perhaps, the most ingenious,

lean men of letters, be the most important of the three volumes. Its contents in general are indicated by the following divisions: The Nineteenth Century; Complementary List of Recent and Contemporary British Authors in Various Departments of Literature; English Literature in the British Dominions beyond the Seas; American Literature; Complementary List of American Authors.

In the February issue of Lippincott's magazine is a story bearing the title, 'Yvonne of the Polles Bergere,' of which the author is Prince Vladimir Yanitsky. The prince now resides in Europe, but his interests are largely in this country. His first published work was a sketch some time ago contributed to one of the magazines, and since that time his name has frequently appeared in many of our periodicals. As a worker he seldom touches paper until his story is outlined. He attended a university in this country and in many ways is sympathetic with the United States.

Next week The Macmillan company will publish 'The American Colonies, 1607-1776,' the new book by the author of 'Elizabeth and Her German Garden.' Elizabeth is as charming as ever in her new volume, which tells the story of her adventures and experiences during eleven happy days, while she spent the winter around the beautiful island in the Baltic.

The Macmillan company will publish in the spring the first two volumes of a work on 'The American Colonies, 1607-1776,' by Herbert L. Osgood, Ph.D., professor of history in Columbia University. The two volumes deal with the chartered colonies and with the beginnings of self-government, and are the first instalment of an institutional history of the American colonies.

'Merely Mary Ann,' Mr. Zangwill's now famous novelette, will be published this week by the Macmillan company in a large edition in paper covers. The play which Mr. Zangwill made from his book has been such a success that it has called for the publication of the story in a volume by itself. Hitherto 'Merely Mary Ann' has appeared only in the collection of short stories by Mr. Zangwill entitled 'The Grey Wig.'

The Baroness von Hutten, whose delightful book 'Our Lady of the Beches,' met with such success a year ago, has published a new novel, entitled 'Violet.' This interesting author is an American, and the niece of a former president of the United States. She was born in one of the minor Pennsylvania cities, so late as the seventies. After an American education, she came to a well known school in New York city, where she traveled extensively in Europe. At Florence, in 1867, she was married to a Bavarian nobleman, the von Hutten family, a lineal descendant of Ulrich von Hutten, famous in the Reformation. The von Hutten spend a large portion of their time at Schloss Steinhilber in the Main valley, Bavaria. This fine old house, with its stone and masonry, beautifully colored with time, was built in 1276 by Prince-Bishop Herten, the province in which it is located being then an ecclesiastical principality. The house has a real roomy garden, a main, pleasure, etc. The Baroness visited America last winter and was much entertained in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Her new story of a lonely boy artist is described as 'a study of the heart.'

The March number of 'The Smart Set' is distinguished by the extraordinary variety of the fiction composing it—a variety that is altogether meritorious. In the novelette 'The Interference of Miss Jane,' by Robert Alder Bowen, one

finds an exquisite love story, chiefly of the south, though sometimes the scene is shifted to New York. It has a real atmosphere, a real plot, real action—in short, a story that is both powerful and fascinating.

VANISHING WHALEBONE.

The sensational sale of a whalebone at Dundee at the record price of \$23,000 a ton was no doubt quite gratifying to the vendor, but there was a pathetic aspect to it of which a few people had any definite conception. Whalebone at \$2,000 a ton sounds another note—nearly the last—in the long drawn knell of the whalebone cutter. There was a time when whalebone cutting was a flourishing industry in this country, employing a great number of men. The day is approaching when the whalebone cutter will be nearly as hard to find as the dodo.

'You want to know about the whalebone,' said an old cutter, one of the very few remaining in London, to an Express representative. 'Well, I know all about whalebone; at least, I ought to, seeing that I came into the trade when I was fourteen years old, and it was seventy-five yesterday. My father was a whalebone cutter, and my father's stepfather was a whalebone cutter before him. My brother was a whalebone cutter, and my son understands whalebone cutting, though there is not enough of the trade left to make it worth his while to follow.'

The little old man was sitting in his little old shop surrounded by umbrellas, fishing rods and a tank of live gace.

'When I went into the trade,' he continued, 'that was in 1821, whalebone cutting was a recognized part of the corset and the umbrella trades. Manufactured whalebone was a pound then, and when the price rose to 6d a pound the umbrella makers cried out that they would be ruined. 'Now the price is 4s a pound. The year after I entered the business I remember carrying a blade of whalebone fifteen feet long to the British museum as a present from my master.'

'A great many things were made of whalebone in those days. Stays, of course, and umbrella and parasol ribs. Those old umbrellas were good ones to wear, but they rolled up something like lettuce in appearance. We still make artists' sketching umbrellas and carriage shades of whalebone, but they are expensive.'

'Then we used to use whalebone for fastening to the underside of the shafts of light gigs, to give elasticity and strength without weight. Brooms were made of whalebone, and how those old brooms used to last! It was used for chimney sweeping machines; it was also cut into hair for dandy brushes for horses.'

'Ladies on whalebone was put into the handles of the best cricket bats, though as it is always put in sideways the old man failed to see how it can lend any extra spring to the bat. As a matter of fact, now that whalebone is so dear, black wood is being put in to look like it. 'And I have no doubt it does just as well,' said the old man, with a chuckle.

This veteran can remember the time when eight vans, each carrying four tons of bone, used to be seen standing outside the shop twice a month, after his master had been down to the docks to buy. Fancy what that would mean at \$23,000 a ton—London Express.